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Wise, B. R. The Commonwealth of Australia. Pp. xv, 355. Price, \$3.00. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.

One naturally expects an author who writes on Australia to emphasize the part which the government plays in the life of the people, and Mr. Wise does so. The first third of the book contains three chapters on the physical characteristics of the country and six on the lands, education and labor policy of the "paradise of the working man." There are many indications in this portion of the work that the author is not free from the enthusiasm of those who live in new countries. It is rather startling to read of the great Pacific continent that "no area of equal dimensions contains so much wealth or in greater variety," and that it "dominates the Pacific" and is "placed astride of the trade route between America and China is not only the outlying frontier of England but is also the ultimate heir of Java." But except where overcolored by patriotism these chapters are interesting and instructive.

Much the better portion of the book is found in its latter two-thirds, though here too the reader has occasion to feel that a more critical attitude would have added to its value. The chapters on the struggle for Union are excellent. There is nowhere presented in semipopular form a more readable account of the efforts by which the provincial prejudices at first blocked union and later yielded to its advantages. The discussion of the government and its workings is also well done, doubtless reflecting the author's legal training and his experience as attorney-general of New South Wales. The chapter on the Judiciary is especially interesting to Americans because of the adaptation of the organization of the supreme court of the United States.

In the field of legislation Australia has done much to arouse our interest. Mr. Wise reviews not only the laws but their workings. His treatment of tariff policies bears especially on the subject of imperialism. Other subjects covered are, the trust problem, immigration of colored races, anti-strike laws, eight hour day laws, legislation for early closing of factories, minimum wage laws, laws favoring labor unions and providing old age and invalidity pensions. Most readers will find these chapters the most interesting and valuable in the book.

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